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From:

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Monday, May 09, 2016 9:43 AM

Subject: Attachments: **Budget Speaker Registration/Testimony**

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Speaker Registration/Testimony

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Name(*)

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Meeting Date (*)

2016-05-10

Council/PH Committee (*)

Budget

Agenda Item (*)

Bill 14(2016), CD1

Your position on the matter (*)

Oppose

Representing (*)

Organization

Organization

State Dept. of Agriculture

Do you wish to speak at the

hearing? (*)

Yes

Written Testimony

Testimony Attachment

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Accept Terms and Conditions

(*)

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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

> KEN H KAKESAKO Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU **COMMITTEE ON BUDGET** SPECIAL MEETING

> TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2016 9:00 A.M. Committee Meeting Room

ITEM 5 BILL 14 (2016), CD1 AND PROPOSED CD2 AMENDMENTS TO THE EXECUTIVE OPERATING BUDGET AND PROGRAM

Chairperson Kobayashi and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the proposed CD1 and CD2 amendments to the Executive Operating Budget. Our comments are limited to a single proviso found in CD2. On page 4 of CD2 is a proposal to add \$500,000 to the Executive Operating Budget to be "... appropriated for the Kosong Foundation for the planning and development of a community cultural and arts center to be located at or near the Pawaa In-Ha Park within the area bounded by Keeaumoku Street, Young Street, Kalakaua Avenue, and King Street."

The proposed "cultural and arts center" involves property owned by the City that is currently In-Ha Park and the State Department of Agriculture's primary administrative offices and research complex. As presented to us in 2014, the Kosong Foundation's proposed Michuhol Museum and International Center may involve the demolition of and/or significant encroachment upon the entire vehicle parking area for employees. State vehicles, and visitors; buildings containing offices and meeting rooms; and research and testing facilities that are of great importance to Hawaii's agricultural industry.



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One research facility that may be affected by the proposed museum is our Plant Pathology Lab which recently underwent \$1 million in renovations. The Plant Pathology Lab is the only facility of its kind in the State and the Pacific region. It is dedicated to the identification, evaluation, and testing of beneficial biological agents to combat plant diseases and pests that are adversely affecting Hawaii's agricultural industry and the environment. The cost to build a new facility is estimated to be \$10 million. Therefore, we strongly oppose any project that will require the demolition or impairment of the existing Lab and adjacent insectary buildings, or would require the construction of new facilities.

Finally, should the City approve funding for the planning and development of the proposed museum and international center, the Department expects that all impacts affecting our functions, activities, and employees shall be identified in their entirety and fully mitigated to the satisfaction of the Department.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to present our testimony.